



meet the bears

➡ athletes revel in the moment

Excitement and anticipation filled the air of the John I. Hurst stadium as eager fans awaited this season's athletes. The stadium environment added to the thrill as attendees devoured pizza and chattered amongst each other, and the crowd exploded in applause as each member of the football team was introduced. Players took off running across the field to the enjoyment of the audience, and the sound of the band mingled with the encouraging cheers of the fans. After the introduction, the team congregated and participated in a scrimmage match. People in the stands roared at the sight of turf flying and bodies colliding, but in the end, it was the united team that got the fans fired up.

When the scrimmage had ended, members of the men's and women's soccer teams stood proud and tall for their introduction, and the crowd dished out motivating acclamation. Next came the Lady Bears basketball team, each woman wearing an elated smile. The men's basketball team followed soon after, and the stands erupted with approval that could be heard far throughout campus. After a stunning performance, the cheerleaders were announced, and each member incorporated a unique routine of flips and stunts when her name was called. Then, the dance team strutted their stuff, displaying flawless moves to the rhythmic thumping of dance music and enrapturing the crowd as they performed the impossible. Following behind the dance team, the renowned softball team took the field and reveled in the praise they received. The newly-formed tennis team also smiled brightly as they walked on the field to be announced. Last but not least, the baseball team certainly made themselves memorable as they showed off for the crowd at the call of their name. Once the introductions had concluded, a meet-and-greet commenced. Not a single face in the entire stadium was without a smile. As the evening drew to a close, both fans and athletes were well-acquainted, and everyone left confident in what the Bears had in store for the year.

by Madison VanNess



left: Auset Gibbs waves to the crowd; far left: Ryley Bullock, Charlie the Bear, and Shandeanna Day smile during halftime; opposite page: Kylie Troutman cheers on the team; top left: Creshona Kenny strikes a pose during a performance.